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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 September 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/62/1)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General regarding the organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/62/1).

II. Organization of the session

2. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and said that he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session.

3. *The Committee took note of all the relevant information contained in chapter II of the memorandum. It decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to all the necessary information, in particular the information contained in paragraph 38 of the memorandum concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications, and to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take action on all the proposals contained in that chapter. It also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the information contained in paragraph 43 of the memorandum on the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the use of the phrase "within available resources" and the Advisory Committee's views on the responsibility of the Secretariat to inform the General Assembly regarding the availability of resources to implement a new activity.*

III. Adoption of the agenda

4. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the draft agenda was organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, the priorities for the period 2006-2007 as set out in General Assembly resolution 59/278 and the priorities for the period 2007-2008 as set out in General Assembly resolutions 61/235 and 61/254.

Paragraphs 49 to 51

5. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 49 to 51 of the memorandum.*

Inclusion of items

6. **The Chairman** said that, since the agenda was now organized under nine headings, the Committee might wish to consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. However, the Committee might wish to take separate decisions on certain items, where it was deemed appropriate, including in some cases the placement of items under appropriate headings.

7. The draft agenda contained nine new items, namely item 116 (f) and items 160 to 167, under heading I: organizational, administrative and other matters.

Paragraph 52

Items 1-8

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 52 of the memorandum. Items 1 to 8 were not under any heading. The General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 to 3. Items 4 to 8 related to organizational matters.

9. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of items 1 to 8.*

Heading A. Maintenance of international peace and security

Item 21. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

10. **The Chairman** said that the General Assembly, at the 40th plenary meeting of its sixtieth session, had decided to include item 21 in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session.

11. **Mr. Renié** (France) said that, following consultations with the delegation of the Comoros, his delegation proposed that consideration of the question of the inclusion of item 21 should be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

12. *It was so decided.*

Item 42. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

13. **Mr. Ehouzou** (Benin), supported by **Ms. Brazier** (United Kingdom), said that, following consultations with the delegations of France and Madagascar, and without prejudice to the positions of those two countries, his delegation proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 42 should be deferred to its sixty-third session.

14. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of item 42 should be deferred to its sixty-third session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda for that session.*

15. *The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading A, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 21 and 42.*

Heading B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading B.*

Heading C. Development of Africa

17. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading C.*

Heading D. Promotion of human rights

18. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading D.*

Heading E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

19. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading E.*

Heading F. Promotion of justice and international law

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading F.*

Heading G. Disarmament

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading G.*

Heading H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading H.*

Heading I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

Item 116 (f). Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

23. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 116 (f) had been requested by the Secretary-General in document A/62/142.

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 116 (f).*

Item 160. Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in the General Assembly

25. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 160 had been requested by Kenya in document A/62/141. The representative of Kenya had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

26. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Orina (Kenya) took a place at the Committee table.*

27. **Ms. Orina** (Kenya) said that the inclusion of item 160 had been requested at the initiative of her country and of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Seychelles, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

28. The Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of

Africa had been established for the purpose of containing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons. It thus contributed to the achievement of one of the Organization's priorities, namely the maintenance of international peace and security. It would benefit greatly from being granted observer status in the General Assembly.

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 160.*

30. *Ms. Orina (Kenya) withdrew.*

Item 161. Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly

31. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 161 had been requested by Italy in document A/62/143.

32. **Mr. Álvarez** (Uruguay) said that the Italian-Latin American Institute played an important role in the international cultural field. The inclusion of item 161 had been requested by the Latin American States members of the Institute, as well as by Italy.

33. **Mr. Romero-Martínez** (Honduras), endorsing the statement made by the representative of Uruguay, said that, as a State member of the Institute, Honduras could testify to its importance in Latin American relations.

34. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 161.*

Item 162. Proclamation of the International Year of Human Rights Learning

35. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 162 had been requested by Benin in document A/62/144.

36. **Mr. Ehouzou** (Benin) said that, after consultations with a number of countries, it had been decided to withdraw the request for the inclusion of item 162 and to request instead the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" under item 72. His delegation had circulated an explanatory note to that effect.

37. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of an additional sub-item entitled "Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" under heading D (Promotion of human rights), item 72 (Promotion and protection of human rights).*

Item 163. Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly

38. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 163 had been requested by Japan in document A/62/191.

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 163.*

Item 164. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

40. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 164 had been requested by the Secretary-General in document A/62/192.

41. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 164.*

Item 165. Urging the Security Council to process Taiwan's membership application pursuant to rules 59 and 60 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations

42. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 165 had been requested by a number of Member States in document A/62/193 and addenda 1 to 3. Following informal consultations, it was his understanding that there was general agreement among Committee members that statements with respect to the inclusion of the item should be limited to two speakers in favour and two against, and that the duration of each statement should be no more than six minutes. Pursuant to rule 43 of the rules of procedure, non-members of the Committee could participate in the discussion concerning the inclusion of the item but not in the discussion of the procedure to be followed by the Committee.

43. **Mr. Beck** (Palau), supported by **Mr. Romero-Martínez** (Honduras), opposed the suggestion to limit the debate, since any such limits were inconsistent with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

44. **Mr. Kariyawasam** (Sri Lanka) said that, bearing in mind the need for efficient time management, his delegation supported the suggestion to limit the debate. The total of four speakers could include States not members of the Committee, participating in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

45. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus), supported by **Mr. Shcherbak** (Russian Federation), said that, notwithstanding the right of sovereign Member States to discuss issues of concern within the framework of the United Nations, the Committee had spent a considerable amount of time over the years debating the Taiwan question, and the views of Member States were already well known. There was therefore no need for further lengthy discussion. Limiting the debate did not constitute a denial of the right of States to request the inclusion of items in the agenda of the General Assembly; it was simply a more efficient way of working. His delegation therefore supported the suggestion to limit the debate.

46. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia), endorsing the statement made by the representative of Palau, said that Committee members who were concerned about the Taiwan question wished to hear the views of non-members. The outcome of the informal consultations did not constitute a formal decision. The matter should be taken more seriously; although it had been debated before, Member States should have the opportunity to discuss new issues pertaining to the need for Taiwan to become a Member of the United Nations.

47. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) and **Mr. Ehouzou** (Benin) expressed support for the suggestion to limit the debate, in the interests of efficient time management.

48. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), **Mr. Soborun** (Mauritius), **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia), **Mr. Badji** (Senegal), **Mr. Álvarez** (Uruguay), **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), **Mr. İlkin** (Turkey), **Mr. Renié** (France), **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland), **Mr. Outlule** (Botswana), **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) expressed support for the suggestion to limit debate on the item.

49. **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan) said that Taiwan was an integral part of China and that it was the responsibility of the United Nations to safeguard and not to undermine the territorial integrity of its Member States. He expressed support for limiting debate on the item.

50. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) agreed that limiting debate on the item was the best procedure, optimizing the use of the Assembly's time and resources.

51. *The Committee decided by 24 votes to 3 that statements should be limited to two speakers in favour of and two speakers against the inclusion of item 165, and that the duration of each statement should be no more than six minutes.*

52. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

53. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) took a place at the Committee table.*

54. **Ms. Ferrari** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) expressed concern about the dangerous consequences that could arise if committees flouted or ignored the established rules of procedure. Within the General Committee, the so-called "established tradition" of limiting debate on the item under consideration in fact dated back only to 2005.

55. Her Government enjoyed a long-standing, close and mutually beneficial relationship with the democratically elected Government of Taiwan and strongly supported the inclusion of item 165, and the related draft resolution, in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

56. An application for Taiwan's membership of the United Nations, signed by the democratically elected President of Taiwan, had been submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 19 July 2007. While Taiwan satisfied the requirements to apply for membership pursuant to Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General, apparently on the advice of the Department of Legal Affairs, had nevertheless returned the application as "unreceivable". The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs had stated that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the United Nations considered Taiwan, for all intents and purposes, to be an integral part of the People's Republic of China. Such a response by the United Nations Secretariat was a troubling direct attack on the Charter of the United Nations. Since Member States alone had the absolute authority to make pronouncements on membership applications, the

Secretary-General should reconsider his ill-advised response.

57. It was mainly small Member States that dared to speak out on behalf of Taiwan but those States were sovereign countries with all the rights afforded them by virtue of their membership of the United Nations. As such, they would not stand idly by and allow their voices to go unheard or their opinions to be ignored. Contrary to the claims made every year by Member States in the General Committee, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had not in fact established the so-called "one China" principle, nor had it made Taiwan, for all intents and purposes, an integral part of the People's Republic of China.

58. For too long, the Members of the United Nations had been content to ignore the plight of the 23 million Taiwanese denied their basic rights because of the intransigence of one permanent member of the Security Council. The well-known culture of inaction at the United Nations had given way to a new culture of expediency. Accordingly, instead of doing what was right, most Member States did only what was least likely to provoke a severe reaction from a powerful Member State.

59. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Solomon Islands had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

60. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands) took a place at the Committee table.*

61. **Mr. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that his country supported the inclusion of item 165 in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session and stressed that the failure to observe the established rules of procedure with respect to that item threatened to undermine the credibility both of the United Nations and of its Charter. The General Assembly must therefore be allowed to debate the issue of Taiwan's membership of the United Nations and even to call into question the legality of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). That resolution, moreover, was based on the 1943 Cairo Declaration, which contravened the doctrine of self-determination and was no longer relevant to modern geopolitical realities.

62. The General Committee needed to examine the item under consideration objectively. Taiwan was a sovereign State which abided by the rules of international law, existed within a defined territory and maintained diplomatic relations with other States. If any countries wished to challenge those assertions, the correct course of action would be to allow a debate in the General Assembly.

63. China had not exerted any direct political control over Taiwan for over half a century, as demonstrated by its need to adopt an "anti-secession law" in March 2005, legitimizing non-peaceful means to resolve cross-Straits disputes, and by its deployment of 800 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan. In that regard, since the United Nations had a collective moral responsibility to resolve such disputes peacefully, a general debate within the United Nations might help to remove fears of an arms race or of potential conflict.

64. Furthermore, as part of the efforts needed to make the Organization more efficient and effective, it was important to examine why the issue of Taiwan's membership of the United Nations had still not been discussed by the General Assembly, particularly when similar complex problems elsewhere in the world had been addressed.

65. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China) said that his delegation firmly opposed the inclusion of item 165 in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. His Government had stated its position on the issue in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 16 August 2007.

66. There was only one China, and Taiwan was an inseparable part of China's territory, as was widely recognized by the international community. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved once and for all by the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI) in 1971. That resolution stated unequivocally that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that Taiwan was an inseparable part of China's territory.

67. The United Nations was an intergovernmental organization open to sovereign States. As a region of China, Taiwan was not eligible to participate, in whatever name, in the United Nations. No sovereign State in the world would allow one of its regions to participate in the United Nations. At successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993, the General Committee had always flatly refused to include the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in

the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly.

68. Nobody cared more about the prospects and interests of the 23 million Taiwan compatriots than the Chinese Government and people. Consistent with the principle of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems", the Chinese Government had made every effort and had worked with utmost sincerity to improve the well-being of compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits with a view to peaceful unification. It had taken a series of major measures to improve cross-Straits relations and had worked vigorously to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Taiwan compatriots abroad, including through exchanges. Recent efforts in that regard had been welcomed by Taiwan compatriots and widely approved by the international community.

69. His Government had sincerely hoped that the two sides of the Taiwan Straits could respect each other, cooperate for their mutual benefit, enhance economic and trade exchanges and expand cooperation in all fields. However, the Chen Shui-bien authorities had deliberately provoked cross-Straits confrontation and had intensified efforts to push for "de jure Taiwan independence" through so-called "constitutional reengineering". The "Taiwan independence" forces and their separatist activities remained the greatest obstacle to cross-Straits relations and constituted the greatest threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits and in the Asia-Pacific region. It was in the fundamental and long-term interests of compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to reject the "Taiwan independence" forces and their separatist activities and to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

70. Respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries were fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter for China and should be settled jointly by the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. No foreign force had the right to interfere. His delegation strongly urged the countries that supported inclusion of the item to do nothing further to encourage secessionist activities. It appreciated the just position adopted by the vast majority of Member States.

71. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that his delegation firmly opposed the inclusion of item 165 in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all, politically, legally and in terms of procedure. Accordingly, the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of China in the United Nations.

72. As an integral part of China, Taiwan was not entitled to membership of the United Nations. Since the Organization was entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, the question of Taiwan remained a purely internal affair of China to be resolved by the Chinese people themselves. Successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 had consistently refused to include the issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly.

73. The recommendations of the General Committee should reflect the will of the vast majority of its members and the General Assembly was a democratic body which had every right to decide on its own rules of procedure. His delegation thus supported not only a General Committee recommendation not to include item 165 in the agenda of the General Assembly but also adoption of the General Committee's report without opening the matter for any further discussion in the General Assembly.

74. *The Committee decided not to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of item 165.*

75. *Ms. Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands) withdrew.*

76. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) said that he wished to make a general statement. Without flouting already agreed procedures, the sponsors of the request for inclusion had every right to raise the matter in the plenary Assembly discussion of the General Committee's report. The Secretary-General had taken a unilateral decision on Taiwan's application for membership in the Organization, in flagrant violation of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Charter of the United Nations. In today's interdependent world, that was tantamount to political discrimination and "political apartheid".

77. He noted that 77 per cent of the respondents to a poll taken in Taiwan had been in favour of applying for membership.

78. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China), speaking on a point of order, said that the General Committee had already concluded its consideration of the matter and further discussion of it should not be permitted.

79. **The Chairman** asked the representative of the Gambia to respect the decision taken by the General Committee, which had concluded its deliberations and its voting on the issue.

80. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) said that he had merely been making a general statement with regard to the procedures adopted by the Committee on inclusion of the supplementary item. Over the years, all had witnessed how a very powerful member of the Security Council had used its influence to dominate the discussion about the country called Taiwan.

81. **The Chairman** said that the matter had been discussed in informal consultations and that, at the current meeting, the agreed number of statements had been delivered — two to represent each side — and a vote had been taken. The delegation of the Gambia would be entitled to raise the issue again in the plenary Assembly.

82. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) insisted that his delegation had every right to make a general statement; however, he would accede to the Chairman's request. He wished to point out that the issue of including an item on Taiwan would continue to arise, as it had for the past 14 years. The failure to properly address the matter in the General Committee would have to be compensated for in the plenary Assembly.

Item 166: Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly

83. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 166.*

Item 167: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

84. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading I of item 167.*

Heading I

85. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda of the items listed under heading I, taking into account the decisions taken regarding item 116 (f) and items 160 to 167.*

IV. Allocation of items

Paragraphs 53 to 55

86. **The Chairman** drew attention to the information contained in paragraphs 53 to 55 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/62/1), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous years.

87. *The Committee decided to take note of the information contained in paragraphs 53 to 55.*

Paragraph 56

88. **The Chairman** said that, in paragraph 56 of his memorandum, the Secretary-General had listed items of the draft agenda which had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, he would first request the Committee to decide on the recommendation it should make regarding the allocation of those items, recommended for inclusion in the agenda for the sixty-second session.

89. *It was so decided.*

Paragraph 58

90. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 54/195, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary meeting after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee. The Committee would therefore proceed accordingly with the consideration of the allocation of items 160, 161, 163 and 166 concerning observer status.

91. **Mr. Wang** Guangya (China) asked why the Chairman had not mentioned item 165.

92. **The Chairman** said that it had already been dealt with separately.

Item 116 (f): Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

93. **The Chairman** said that, owing to the nature of the item, the Secretary-General had requested that it should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

94. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 116 (f) should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Item 160. Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa in the General Assembly

95. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 160 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee*

Item 161. Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly

96. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 161 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 162. Celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

97. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 162, to be included as an additional sub-item of item 72, should be allocated to the Third Committee, as proposed by the sponsor.*

Item 163 Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly

98. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 163 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 164. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

99. **The Chairman** said that, owing to the nature of the item, the Secretary-General had requested that it should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

100. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 164 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Item 166. Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly

101. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 166 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 167. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

102. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 167 should be considered directly in plenary meeting, as proposed by the sponsors.*

Item 45. Report of the Economic and Social Council

103. *The Committee took note of paragraph 60 and decided to recommend that the General Assembly, when considering item 45 in its entirety in plenary meeting, should take note of the clarification that, in implementing resolution 58/316, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be considered by the Main Committees concerned, under agenda items already allocated to them, for final action by the Assembly.*

Item 50. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Item 118. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

104. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 61 and 62.*

Item 51. Culture of peace

105. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 63.*

Item 55 (b). High-level dialogue for the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

106. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 64.*

Item 65. Advancement of women

107. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the suggested allocation for the*

annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Item 68 (b). Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

108. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 66.*

Item 73. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

109. *The Committee took note of the information contained in paragraph 67.*

Item 100. General and complete disarmament

110. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the relevant paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 89.*

Item 111. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

111. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General of his annual report prior to the opening of the general debate.*

Item 123. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

112. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 123 should be allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.*

Item 131. Programme planning

113. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 131 should be allocated to all the Main Committees and to the plenary Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.*

Item 139. Administration of justice at the United Nations

114. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 139 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee and to the Sixth Committee in the light of resolution 61/261.*

Item 67. Report of the Human Rights Council

115. **The Chairman** said that, during the sixty-first session, the report of the Human Rights Council had been considered directly in plenary meeting and also allocated to the Third Committee on the understanding that the Third Committee would consider and act on all recommendations of the Human Rights Council to the Assembly, including those that dealt with the development of international law in the field of human rights, and that the Assembly in plenary meeting would consider the annual report of the Human Rights Council on its activities for the year.

116. **Ms. Willson** (United States of America) said that the Council was now beginning its regular work and her delegation felt strongly that the report of any subsidiary body in the field of human rights should first be considered in the Third Committee by those with the requisite human rights expertise and then be transmitted to the plenary meeting.

117. Noting that the report of the Human Rights Council was included in the documentation before the Third Committee (A/C.3/62/L.1/Add.1), she said that there was solid precedent for that practice: for roughly 60 years, the Third Committee had been considering the report of the Economic and Social Council, including the report of the former Commission on Human Rights. For the three quarters of the Member States which were not members of the Human Rights Council, the deliberations of the Third Committee provided the only opportunity to review the work of the Council. Although the Commission had been replaced by the Council, the overall situation had not changed, and the Third Committee remained the most appropriate forum for consideration of the Council's very technical and detailed 84-page report.

118. Her delegation hoped that the other members of the General Committee would consider allocating the report to the Third Committee instead of directly to the plenary Assembly.

119. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Soborun** (Mauritius), **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **Mr. Khalid Ali** (Sudan) supported the African position that the report of the Human Rights Council should be reviewed in its entirety by the Third Committee, which was the expert

body of the General Assembly on all human rights issues. He hoped that the procedure regarding the report would be finalized at the current session.

120. It was standard practice for the reports of all subsidiary bodies to be submitted to the relevant Main Committee, which then submitted its recommendations directly to the plenary Assembly after deliberation. Established by General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council was clearly a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. The forum for lengthy deliberations on the report of that technical subsidiary body should thus be the Third Committee, not the plenary Assembly.

121. Even the Economic and Social Council, a principal organ, had always included the report of the former Commission on Human Rights in the report it submitted to the Third Committee.

122. In order for the Third Committee to consider the recommendations contained in the report, it must look at the basis on which those recommendations were made and thus at the whole report. In view of the limited membership of the Human Rights Council, consideration of its report in the Third Committee would provide an opportunity for all Member States to participate in that exercise.

123. **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland), supported by **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland), **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) and **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom), proposed deferring a decision on allocation of the item in order to allow for further discussion and to take into account the various views on the matter.

124. **Mr. Zheglov** (Russian Federation) supported the statements made by the representatives of the United States and Egypt in favour of consideration of the report in the Third Committee. It would not be wise to depart from the practice followed by the Economic and Social Council by setting a precedent for submitting the Human Rights Council's report directly to the plenary Assembly. Nor should the unique potential for the Third Committee and its experts to consider the report be ignored at a vital period for the Council, when its organization and procedures had been established and the launching of the universal periodic review mechanism was imminent.

125. **Mr. Outlule** (Botswana) said that his delegation supported the allocation of item 67 to the Third Committee, on the basis of the convincing arguments made.

126. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said that his delegation would have favoured allocating the item directly to the plenary Assembly; however, given the various views that had been put forward, perhaps a decision should be postponed to allow time for consultations, in which his delegation would be an active participant.

127. **Mr. Renié** (France) said that more in-depth consideration and consultations would be necessary. His delegation agreed that a decision should be deferred.

128. **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) supported the African position set out by the representative of Egypt but hoped that the matter would be dealt with expeditiously.

129. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal), too, supported the African position outlined by the representative of Egypt, which was logical and would give effect to many of the proposals made at the sixty-first session.

130. **The Chairman** said that, having heard the statements just made and taking into account that further consultation was required, he would suggest that the General Committee should defer its consideration of the allocation of item 67.

131. *It was so decided.*

Plenary Assembly

132. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 21, 55 (b), 68 (b) and 167.*

First Committee

133. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109 and 131.*

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

134. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", and items 109 and 131.*

Second Committee

135. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109 and 131.*

Third Committee

136. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109, 131 and 162.*

Fifth Committee

137. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109, 116 (f) and 164.*

Sixth Committee

138. *The Committee decided to recommend the proposed allocation of items, taking into account the decisions taken regarding items 109, 118, 139, 160, 161, 163 and 166.*

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/62/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 November 2007

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 19 October 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
(President of the General Assembly)

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Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

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Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saudi Arabia

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07-55331 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/62/1); *first report of the General Committee* (A/62/250)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that, at its previous meeting, the General Committee had decided to postpone to a later date its consideration of the question of the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte". That decision was reflected in paragraph 50 of the first report of the General Committee to the General Assembly (A/62/250).

2. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin), supported by **Ms. Brazier** (United Kingdom), said that, following consultations with the two countries concerned, he wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should defer consideration of the item in question until its sixty-third session.

3. *It was so decided.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item: note by the Secretary-General (A/62/231)

4. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by the Secretary-General for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad" (A/62/231).

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad" should be included in the agenda of the current session under heading 1 (organizational, administrative and other matters).*

6. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Kazakhstan (A/62/232)

7. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by Kazakhstan for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia" (A/62/232). In accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representative of Kazakhstan had asked to participate in the discussion of the item.

8. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

9. **Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan) said that, in its capacity as President of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, his delegation was requesting the inclusion of an additional item, entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia", in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. The Conference, an intergovernmental body whose aims and principles were in line with those embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, currently had 18 member States — Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Uzbekistan — and a number of observers, including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Viet Nam, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the League of Arab States. Its secretariat had been established in 2006 and was located in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

10. In a message to the Conference's second Summit, which had taken place in 2006, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had said that the organization had an important role to play in promoting cooperation, peace and friendship throughout Asia. Granting the Conference observer status would allow it to work more effectively with the United Nations in the pursuit of international peace and security.

11. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia" should be included in the agenda of the current session under heading 1 (organizational, administrative and other matters).*

12. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

13. *Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan) withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Saudi Arabia (A/62/233)

14. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by Saudi Arabia for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" (A/62/233). In accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representative of Saudi Arabia had asked to participate in the discussion of the item.

15. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sallam (Saudi Arabia) took a place at the Committee table.*

16. **Mr. Sallam** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf played an important role in strengthening cooperation among the Gulf States.

17. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to his request.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Salsabili (Islamic Republic of Iran) took a place at the Committee table.*

20. **Mr. Salsabili** (Islamic Republic of Iran), drawing the Committee's attention to the title of the organization at issue, expressed his dismay at the use of an incorrect, ambiguous and misleading term to designate the Persian Gulf. Since time immemorial, the body of water lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula had been referred to by historians and geographers as the "Persian Gulf", and, as emphasized by the United Nations in past decades, that name was the only standard and universally recognized term for the body of water in question.

21. **Mr. Sallam** (Saudi Arabia) said that, as evidenced by the certificate of registration contained in document A/62/233 (enclosure III), the organization in question was officially registered with the United Nations as the "Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" and did not wish to change its name. If the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran wished to pursue the matter, it could submit a memorandum to the Secretary-General.

22. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" should be included in the agenda of the current session under heading 1 (organizational, administrative and other matters).*

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

24. *Mr. Sallam (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. Salsabili (Islamic Republic of Iran) withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea (A/62/234)

25. **The Chairman** drew attention to the request submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula" (A/62/234). In accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea had asked to participate in the discussion of the item.

26. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Pak Gil Yon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and Mr. Kim Hyun Chong (Republic of Korea) took places at the Committee table.*

27. **Mr. Pak** Gil Yon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the inter-Korean summit held in Pyongyang from 2 to 4 October 2007 and the adoption of the Declaration on the Advancement of North-South Korean Relations, Peace and Prosperity represented a significant milestone in efforts to secure peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and the eventual reunification of the Korean nation by further developing North-South relations on the basis of the joint declaration of 15 June 2000 and in the spirit of "by our nation itself".

28. In those circumstances, a General Assembly resolution welcoming and supporting the summit and the Declaration would serve to further encourage the Korean people's ongoing efforts. Accordingly, and acting jointly with the delegation of the Republic of

Korea, he wished to propose the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-second session of an additional item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula".

29. **Mr. Kim** Hyun Chong (Republic of Korea) said that, both during the summit and in the Declaration, the leaders of the two States had clearly expressed their commitment to peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula. To that end, the Declaration included a comprehensive agreement on the future direction of inter-Korean relations, focusing on three areas: the establishment of peace; inter-Korean economic cooperation; and reconciliation and unification. Those developments represented a major milestone in efforts to improve inter-Korean relations, paving the way for common prosperity and eventual peaceful reunification and resolving long-standing regional concerns.

30. In that context, the Governments of the two States had agreed to submit a joint proposal requesting the inclusion of the aforementioned additional item in the agenda of the sixty-second session. In that regard, it was appropriate to recall that, on 31 October 2000, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 55/11, in which it had welcomed and supported the inter-Korean summit of June 2000 and the related joint declaration, under an agenda item of the same title.

31. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Indonesia had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to his request.

32. *It was so decided.*

33. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia) took a place at the Committee table.*

34. **Mr. Natalegawa** (Indonesia) said that, as a country with close ties to both the States concerned, Indonesia had consistently supported the process of inter-Korean dialogue, reconciliation and reunification. Furthermore, as a South-East Asian nation, Indonesia had always recognized the tremendous potential of peace on the Korean peninsula for the wider region. The recent inter-Korean summit and the Declaration constituted a major milestone in inter-Korean relations. Along with the progress made in the recent six-party talks in Beijing, the Declaration had great significance for peace and security both on the Korean peninsula and in the region as a whole.

35. It was incumbent on the United Nations to welcome and encourage those developments because the pursuit of reconciliation was fully in keeping with the ideals embodied in the Charter. He therefore urged the members of the General Committee to lend their unqualified support to the joint request before them.

36. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula was an ongoing part of Benin's foreign policy, since such reunification would contribute significantly to the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, he expressed his support for the request of the two States.

37. **Mr. Li** Junhua (China), supported by **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia), expressed his support for the request submitted jointly by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. The recent summit and the Declaration represented an important contribution to the ongoing efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and would pave the way for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and its eventual reunification.

38. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula" should be included in the agenda of the current session under heading A (maintenance of international peace and security).*

39. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the additional item should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations A/BUR/62/SR.3

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
12 November 2007

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 2 November 2007, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kerim ..... (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
(President of the General Assembly)

Contents

Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

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07-57750 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m.

Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Allocation of items (*continued*) (A/62/252)

Item 10. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/61/493)

1. **The Chairman**, recalling that, at its third plenary meeting, the General Assembly had decided to consider the item directly in plenary meeting, drew attention to document A/61/493, in which the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission requested that the agenda item be also allocated to the Fifth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the question of financing field missions of the Commission. He took it that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that item 10 should be also allocated to the Fifth Committee for that purpose.

2. *It was so decided.*

Item 65. Report of the Human Rights Council (A/62/53)

3. **The Chairman** recalled that at its first meeting the General Committee had decided to defer consideration of the allocation of the agenda item. It was his understanding that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that, during its current session, the item should be allocated to the Third Committee.

4. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said that, given his delegation's constant position that the agenda item should be allocated directly to plenary, it was disappointed that it was proposed to allocate it to the Third Committee. That decision, on which his delegation had not been consulted, would weaken the institution-building package adopted at the Council's fifth session. While Uruguay would not jeopardize the consensus, it adhered to its position that the decision to be adopted should not create a precedent for future sessions. To that end, he recommended the inclusion in the decision of a sentence reflecting the language used on the same issue in document A/61/252/Add.2, which could read: "It is also understood that the current arrangement is in no way a reinterpretation of General Assembly resolution 60/251 and will be reviewed before the beginning of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, on the basis of the experience gained with the efficiency and practicality of this arrangement".

5. **Ms. Brazier** (United Kingdom) and **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland) supported the position stated by the Uruguayan delegation.

6. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **Mr. Hagen** (United States of America) sought clarification as to why the proposed decision should not be considered as a precedent.

7. **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) asked when the issue had been discussed and how the understanding had been reached. He was hearing of it for the first time.

8. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) concurred with the view expressed by the previous speaker, but also with the concerns expressed by the representative of Uruguay.

9. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said that, if the decision under discussion set a precedent, the item would in future automatically be allocated to the Third Committee. He took issue with the institutionalization of the decision. There was currently no consensus on the definitive allocation of the agenda item. The Human Rights Council was a new body and he wished to ensure that the decision was not a permanent one.

10. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) and **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan), pointed out that items were allocated at each session, at which point each delegation could state that it did not wish a particular item to be allocated to a certain committee. If the delegation of Uruguay so wished, at the next session it would have an opportunity to express its views.

11. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said he was making the request for a proviso clause because his delegation had not been consulted about the proposed decision. He did not wish to see the institution-building package disturbed by a review in the Third Committee. He would not oppose the consensus, but could not easily agree to it.

12. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that for him, as Chairman of the Third Committee and as representative of Jamaica, allocation of the report of the Human Rights Council to the Third Committee posed no problem. In any event, the recommendations of the

Third Committee were eventually submitted to the plenary of the General Assembly.

13. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that the African position was that there was no relation between the institution-building package and the allocation of the item to the Third Committee. He therefore endorsed the view expressed by the previous speaker.

14. **The Chairman** suggested that the meeting should be suspended for consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

15. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of Iceland for leading the consultations, during which an understanding had been reached on the issue of whether the proposed decision would set a precedent. He took it that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that, for the sixty-second session, agenda item 65 (Report of the Human Rights Council) should be allocated to the Third Committee.

16. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.